

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 26, 2009. Claims 1 to 14 are in the application, with Claims 1, 10, and 14 being independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 11, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,121,542 (Shiotsuka '542). Claims 1, 3 to 9, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shiotsuka '542. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shiotsuka '542 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,291,763 (Nakamura). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shiotsuka '542 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,611,884 (Bearinger). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and his supervisor for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during the personal interview conducted on August 27, 2009. During that interview, the Examiner and his supervisor tentatively indicated that the foregoing amendments would overcome the outstanding rejections.

Accordingly, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCBS_WS 3889168v1